Message Text

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TAGS: UNESCO, PORG, OCON

SUBJECT: UNESCO: INFORMATION GROUP DISCUSSION OF MASS MEDIA DECLARATION AND OTHER CURRENT ISSUES

- 1. INFORMATION GROUP (IG) MET ON JUNE 21 TO DISCUSS AMB MOURIK'S NETHERLANDS) PROPOSAL THAT A WORKING GROUP PREPARE OUTLINE OF MASS MEDIA PRINCIPLES TO WHICH WESTERN STATES COULD GENERALLY SUSCRIBE. THIS WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL IN ORDER TO INFLUENCE HIS DECISION ON TEXT WHICH HE MAY SUBMIT TO MEMBER STATES.
- 2. REPRESENTATIVES OF SWEDEN, FRG, CANADA, AUSTRIA, FRANCE, AND BELGIUM TOOK COMMON VIEW THAT THEY WOULD PREFER NOT TO HAVE ANY DECLARATION. (NOTE: SWEDISH REP DID SAY THAT THEIR POSITION WAS BASED ON TEXT CURRENT AT 19TH GC. IF NEW OFFICIAL TEXT SHOULD BE PITCHED SUBSTANTIALLY TO THIRD WORLD INTERESTS, THE SWEDISH GOVT WOULD PROBABLY TAKE A DIFFERENT VIEW OF THE DECLARATION.) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT SAME TIME, THEY RECALLED THAT DG IS ALREADY AWARE OF FUNDAMENTAL WESTERN POSITION ON ISSUES SUCH AS STATE CONTROL OF PRESS. MOST SAID THAT THEY BELIEVED INDEPENDENT CONTACTS BY INIDIVIDUAL STATES WOULD BE THE BEST WAY TO PROCEED AT THIS TIME, RATHER THAN TRYING TO PREPARE A JOINT DEMARCHE.

- 3. US REP SUPPORTED THIS VIEW, AND SAID THAT US HAD ALREADY PRESENTED ITS POSITION ON THE DECEMBER 20 TEXT TO THE DG, AND OFFERED TO SHARE US LEGAL ANALYSIS OF TEXT WITH THOSE WHO WERE NOT FAMILIAR WITH IT. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE DRAFT DECLARATION IS ONE OF THE PRINCIPLE ISSUES WHICH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WILL DISCUSS WITH M'BOW DURING HIS JULY 3-7 OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE US. US PERM DEL HOPES THAT THIS WILL GIVE FURTHER INSIGHTS INTO M'BOW'S INTENTIONS, AND ALSO AN INDICATION AS TO POSSIBILITIES FOR NEGOTIATING AN ACCEPTABLE TEXT.
- 4. SUMMARIZING DISCUSSIONS OF THIS POINT, CHAIRMAN (AUSTRALIA) SAID THAT MOURIK'S PROPOSAL FOR WORKING GROUP ACTION SEEMED PREMATURE AT THIS STAGE, AND THAT FURTHER DISCUSSION OF DRAFT DECLARATION SHOULD BE TAKEN UP AFTER M'BOW'S VISIT TO US. HE INVITED US PERM DEL TO REPORT BACK TO IG AT NEXT MEETING WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 11.
- 5. OTHER TOPICS DISCUSSED INCLUDED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS (LENGTH OF EXBD MEMBERS' TERMS); POSSIBILITY FOR INCREASED PERM REP INVOLVEMENT IN DISCHARGE UNESCO'S PROGRAM; THE FORMATION OF WORKING GROUP TO DISCUSS EXBD WORKING METHODS; IG MEMBERS' RESPONSES TO DG'S QUESTIONNAIRE ON EXTRA-BUDGETARY RESOURCES (BELGIUM, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FRG, CANADA, AND AUSTRIA HAVE OR WILL RESPOND NEGATIVELY); AND COMPOSITION AND SIZE OF DELEGATIONS TO SPIN (INFORMATICS) CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN SPAIN.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. PERM DEL WOULD APPRECIATE THOROUGH BRIEFING ON DEPARTMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR DISCUSSIONS WITH M'BOW ON MEDIA DECLARATION BY COB JULY 10. RESULTS OF THOSE MEETINGS WILL BE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR FOR IG DECISION ON HOW TO PROCEED CONCERNING MASS MEDIA DECLARATION. TORRES

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